

House Resolution 1565

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Casas of the 103rd, Everson of the 106th, Thomas of the 100th, Ashe of the 56th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and encouraging art education in Georgia's public schools and urging the
2 Governor's Education Finance Task Force to include art education in its Investing in
3 Educational Excellence recommendations; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a Harris Poll released June 13, 2005, shows that 93 percent of Americans agree
5 that the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education for children and that more than
6 half of those surveyed rated the importance of arts education a ten on a scale of one to ten;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, seven teams of researchers under the Champions of Change Initiative,
9 cosponsored by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, concluded that arts
10 in education transform learning environments and reach students who are not otherwise being
11 reached; and

12 WHEREAS, the Education Commission of the States reports that studies over the past
13 several years show that the arts can improve cognitive skills in reading, language
14 development, and mathematics and help students develop problem solving and creative
15 thinking skills; and

16 WHEREAS, a 1999 report from The College Board, which administers the SAT, showed that
17 students who took arts courses outperformed their peers who did not take arts courses by 66
18 points on the verbal section of the SAT and 42 points on mathematics section; and

19 WHEREAS, a 2002 national symposium on the arts affirmed that the arts occupy a low rung
20 on the ladder of educational priorities in most school districts despite the effectiveness of the
21 arts in improving student performance and despite growing interest in the business
22 community to recruit and retain a creative, critical-thinking work force.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body recognize the potentially powerful impact of the arts on improving
3 the performance of Georgia's students, commend and encourage art education in Georgia's
4 public schools, and call upon the Governor's Education Finance Task Force to include art
5 education in its Investing in Educational Excellence recommendations.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dean Alford, Chairperson
8 of the Governor's Education Finance Task Force.